

1 September 2009

Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New jersey Avenue SE
Washington D.C. 20590

RE: Chattanooga-Hamilton County, Tennessee TIGER Application

Dear Mr. LaHood:

On August 18, 2009 the Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (CHCNGA TPO), Chattanooga Urban Area MPO, voted unanimously to support the governments of Chattanooga and Hamilton County, TN in their application for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 TIGER discretionary funding. The efforts outlined in the project proposal are well supported by the CHCNGA TPO's new 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan currently underway and expected for U.S. DOT approval on or before March 31, 2010. The proposed work currently meets our Conformity Determination Report for PM2.5 standards as the specific improvements meet the definition for "exempt" under EPA's Air Quality Rule. Furthermore, many of the specific improvements will provide emissions reductions through either reduced VMTs or improved efficiency in congestion management. Should these funds be awarded, the TPO will immediately incorporate these improvements into the current Transportation Improvement Program.

Sincerely,



Barry Bennett
Executive Director
Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency